

IN THE CLAIMS:

1-4. (Cancelled)

5. (Currently Amended) A composition comprising a cyclodextrin-containing polymer, and a therapeutic agent, and a complexing agent comprising at least one functional group and at least one host/guest moiety that forms an inclusion complex with a host/guest moiety of said cyclodextrin-containing polymer, wherein the complexing agent comprises at least one polymer portion, and wherein the cyclodextrin-containing polymer, the therapeutic agent, and the complexing agent are separate molecules.

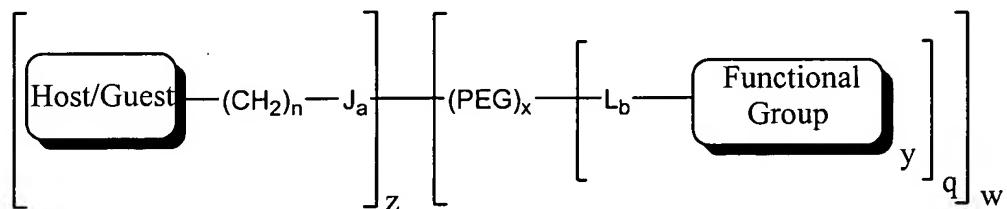
6. (Previously Presented) A composition of claim 5, wherein said therapeutic agent is selected from an antibiotic, a steroid, a polynucleotide, small molecule pharmaceutical, a virus, a plasmid, a peptide, a peptide fragment, a chelating agent, a biologically active macromolecule, and mixtures thereof.

7. (Original) A composition of claim 6, wherein said therapeutic agent is a polynucleotide.

8-10. (Cancelled)

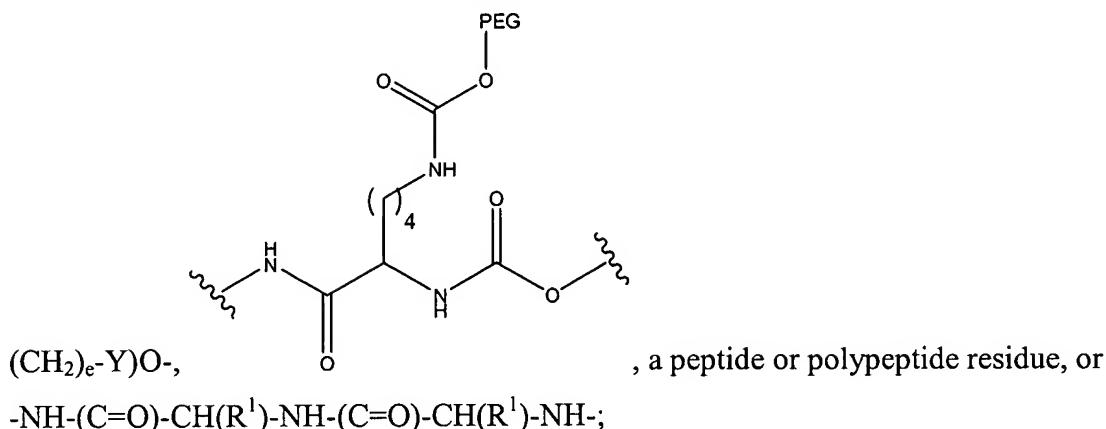
11. (Previously Presented) A composition of claim 5, wherein the host/guest of the complexing agent is selected from adamantyl, naphthyl, cholesterol, cyclodextrin, and mixtures thereof.

12. (Previously Presented) A composition of claim 5, wherein the complexing agent is a compound of the formula:



wherein

J is $-\text{NH}-$, $-\text{C}(=\text{O})\text{NH}-\text{CH}_2\text{d}-$, $-\text{NH}-\text{C}(=\text{O})-(\text{CH}_2)_d-$, $-\text{CH}_2\text{SS}-$, $-\text{C}(=\text{O})\text{O}-(\text{CH}_2)_e-\text{O}-\text{P}(=\text{O})(\text{O}-$



Y is an additional host-guest functionality;

R^1 is $-(\text{CH}_2)\text{CO}_2\text{H}$, an ester or salt thereof; or $-(\text{CH}_2)_a\text{CONH}_2$;

PEG is $-\text{O}(\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{O})_z-$, where z varies from 2 to 500;

L is H, $-\text{NH}$, $-\text{NH}-(\text{C}=\text{O})-(\text{CH}_2)_e-(\text{C}=\text{O})-\text{CH}_2-$, $-\text{S}(\text{=O})_2\text{HC=CH}-$, $-\text{SS}-$, $-\text{C}(\text{=O})\text{O}-$, or a carbohydrate residue;

a is 0 or 1;

b is 0 or 1;

d ranges from 0 to 6;

e ranges from 1 to 6;

n ranges from 0 to 6;

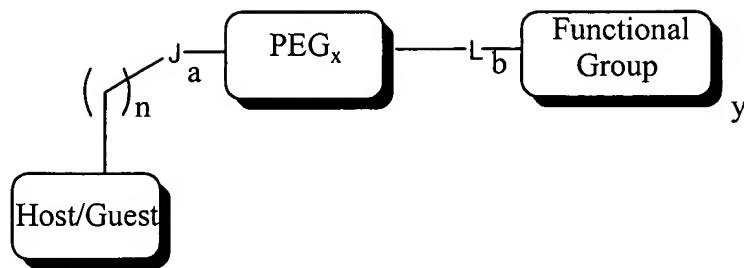
q ranges from 1 to 5;

w ranges from 1 to 5;

y is 1; and

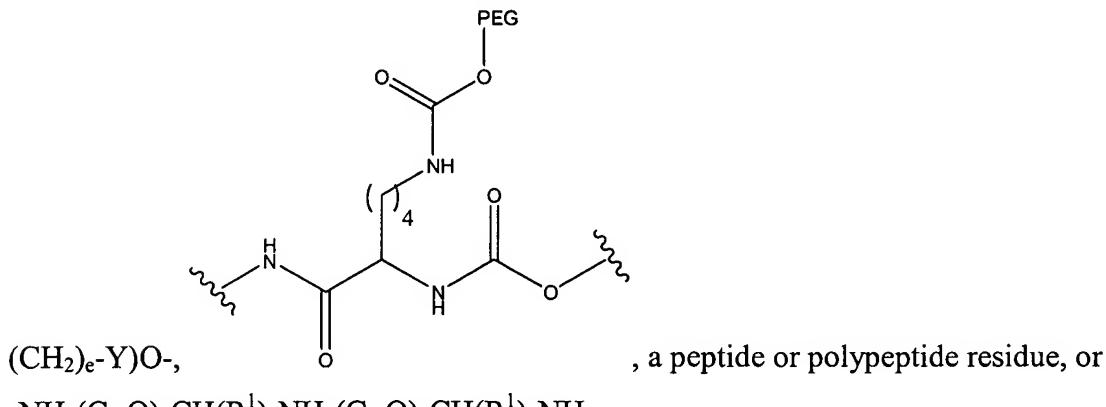
x is 0 or 1.

13. (Previously Presented) A composition of claim 5, wherein the complexing agent is a compound of the formula:



wherein

J is -NH-, -C(=O)NH-CH_d-, -NH-C(=O)-(CH_d)_d-, -CH₂SS-, -C(=O)O-(CH_e)_e-O-P(=O)(O-



, a peptide or polypeptide residue, or

-NH-(C=O)-CH(R¹)-NH-(C=O)-CH(R¹)-NH-;

Y is an additional host-guest functionality;

R¹ is -(CH₂)-CO₂H, an ester or salt thereof; or -(CH_a)_a-CONH₂;

PEG is -O(CH₂CH₂O)_z, where z varies from 2 to 500;

L is H, -NH, -NH-(C=O)-(CH_e)_e-(C=O)-CH₂-, -S(=O)₂-HC=CH-, -SS-, -C(=O)O-, or a

carbohydrate residue;

a is 0 or 1;

b is 0 or 1;

d ranges from 0 to 6;

e ranges from 1 to 6;

n ranges from 0 to 6;

y is 1; and

x is 0 or 1.

14. (Currently Amended) A composition of claim 5, wherein the at least one functional group includes a group selected from a ligand, a nuclear localization signal, an endosomal release peptide, an endosomal release polymer, or a membrane permeabilization agent.

15. (Currently Amended) A composition of claim 5, wherein ~~the~~ at least one functional group includes a moiety that increases the solubility of the composition under biological conditions relative to a composition of the cyclodextrin-containing polymer and therapeutic agent alone.
16. (Currently Amended) A composition of claim 5, wherein ~~the~~ at least one functional group includes a moiety that stabilizes the composition under biological conditions relative to a composition of the cyclodextrin-containing polymer and therapeutic agent alone.
17. (Currently Amended) A composition of claim 5, wherein ~~the~~ at least one functional group includes a therapeutic agent reversibly bound to the complexing agent.
18. (Previously Presented) A composition of claim 5, wherein the complexing agent further comprises a spacer group.
19. (Cancelled)
20. (Currently Amended, Withdrawn) A composition of claim 5, wherein the cyclodextrin-containing polymer comprises [[a]] at least one guest moiety that forms an inclusion complex with [[a]] at least one host moiety of the complexing agent.
21. (Currently Amended, Withdrawn) A composition of claim 20, wherein ~~the~~ at least one guest moiety is an adamantyl group and ~~the~~ at least one host moiety is a cyclodextrin moiety.
22. (New) A composition of claim 18, wherein the spacer group is at least one polymer portion of the complexing agent.
23. (New) A composition of claim 5, wherein at least one polymer portion of the complexing agent comprises PEG or derivatives thereof.
24. (New) A composition of claim 5, wherein at least one polymer portion of the complexing agent is the functional group.

25. (New) A composition of claim 24, wherein the functional group alters the solubility of the cyclodextrin-containing polymer.

26. (New) A composition of claim 24, wherein at least one polymer portion of the complexing agent comprises PEG or derivatives thereof.

27. (New) A composition of claim 5, wherein the cyclodextrin-containing polymer comprises one or more cyclodextrins in the side chains of the cyclodextrin-containing polymer.

28. (New) A composition of claim 5, wherein the cyclodextrin-containing polymer comprises a linear cyclodextrin-containing polymer wherein cyclodextrin moieties are present in the backbone of the polymer.